

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for network-based information management, comprising the steps of:
  - 2 (a) initiating a first habitat having markers utilized for identifying information
  - 3 selected by a user;
  - 4 (b) retrieving the information associated with the markers;
  - 5 (c) displaying the selected information on an information screen of the first habitat
  - 6 utilizing a network;
  - 7 (d) allowing a plurality of users to view the information screen of the first habitat;
  - 8 and
  - 9 (e) allowing the first habitat to access a second habitat for retrieving information
  - 10 from the second habitat.
- 1 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second habitat retrieves information
- 2 from the first habitat.
- 1 3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the first habitat selects portions of the
- 2 retrieved information for display based on user-input.
- 1 4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the first habitat connects directly to the
- 2 second habitat for retrieving the information from the second habitat.
- 1 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first habitat sends out a request for
- 2 desired information to a plurality of habitats and retrieves the desired
- 3 information from at least one of the habitats responding to the request.

- 1 6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first habitat is in communication  
2 with a plurality of habitats such that a sub-network of habitats is formed.
- 1 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein an application communicates with the  
2 first habitat for retrieving information therefrom.
- 1 8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first habitat interacts with an  
2 application for performing tasks.
- 1 9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the habitats has an assigned  
2 address.
- 1 10. A computer program product for network-based information management,  
2 comprising:  
3 (a) computer code for initiating a first habitat having markers utilized for  
4 identifying information selected by a user;  
5 (b) computer code for retrieving the information associated with the markers;  
6 (c) computer code for displaying the selected information on an information screen  
7 of the first habitat utilizing a network;  
8 (d) computer code for allowing a plurality of users to view the information screen of  
9 the first habitat; and  
10 (e) computer code for allowing the first habitat to access a second habitat for  
11 retrieving information from the second habitat.
- 1 11. A computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the second habitat  
2 retrieves information from the first habitat.
- 1 12. A computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the first habitat  
2 selects portions of the retrieved information for display based on user-input.

- 1 13. A computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the first habitat  
2 connects directly to the second habitat for retrieving the information from the  
3 second habitat.
- 1 14. A computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the first habitat  
2 sends out a request for desired information to a plurality of habitats and retrieves  
3 the desired information from at least one of the habitats responding to the  
4 request.
- 1 15. A computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the first habitat is  
2 in communication with a plurality of habitats such that a sub-network of habitats  
3 is formed.
- 1 16. A computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein an application  
2 communicates with the first habitat for retrieving information therefrom.
- 1 17. A computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the first habitat  
2 interacts with an application for performing tasks.
- 1 18. A computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein each of the habitats  
2 has an assigned address.
- 1 19. A system for network-based information management, comprising:  
2 (a) logic for initiating a first habitat having markers utilized for identifying  
3 information selected by a user;  
4 (b) logic for retrieving the information associated with the markers;  
5 (c) logic for displaying the selected information on an information screen of the first  
6 habitat utilizing a network;

- [illegible]